IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims **1, 10, 11, 12, 23, 33, 34, 43,** and **44** as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Data processing apparatus, comprising:

(a) data storage means comprising a RAID having a plurality of partitions, and each partition comprising a plurality of defined storage elements, ~~wherein each of said defined storage elements comprises a separate partition on the RAID,~~ with each ~~separate~~ partition configured to accept image data relating to image frames of a predetermined frame definition/size;

(b) memory means containing:

(i) ~~multiple datastores and usage data for each of the multiple datastores, said~~ usage data indicating which of said defined storage elements contains image data of the predetermined frame definition/size; and

(ii) multiple datastores containing information relating to the usage data;

(c) processing means configured to:

(i) update said usage data ~~in each of said datastores~~ in response to image data being stored within said data storage means;

(ii) in response to an update of said usage data, flush the multiple datastores and analyse said usage data to determine the number of said storage elements not containing image data;

(iii) store information within each of said datastores, said information identifying the predetermined frame definition/size for each ~~separate~~ partition and indicating said number of storage elements in each ~~separate~~ partition not containing image data; and

(iv) read the information from said datastore to determine whether further image data may be stored.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (ORIGINAL) Data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data storage means comprises a hard disk.

4. (ORIGINAL) Data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said usage data comprises a plurality of data elements, each data element corresponding to one storage element on said data storage means.

5. (ORIGINAL) Data processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said usage data comprises a bitmap.

6. (ORIGINAL) Data processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said analysis of said usage data comprises parsing said bitmap.

7. (ORIGINAL) Data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said datastore comprises at least one cache within the kernel memory of said memory means.

8. (CANCELLED)

9. (CANCELLED)

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Data processing apparatus according to claim 1 **[[9]]**, wherein each said storage element has the storage capacity to store only one of said image frames of said predetermined frame definition/size.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Data processing apparatus according to claim 1 [[9]], wherein each of said multiple datastores comprises a cache.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a data processing system comprising processing means, memory means having multiple datastores, and RAID data storage means having a plurality of defined storage elements, a method of storing data, comprising the steps of:

storing image frames in the RAID data storage means, said RAID data storage means having a plurality of partitions, and each partition comprising a plurality of defined storage elements, ~~wherein each of said defined storage elements comprises a separate partition on the RAID,~~ with each ~~separate~~ partition configured to accept image data relating to image frames of a predetermined frame definition/size;

storing usage data ~~for each of the multiple datastores within~~in said memory means, said usage data indicating which of said defined storage elements for each partition contains image data of the predetermined frame definition/size;

in response to said storing of usage data, flushing the multiple datastores;

analysing said usage data to determine the number of said storage elements not containing image data;

storing information within each of said datastores, said information identifying the predetermined frame definition/size for each ~~separate~~ partition and indicating said number of storage elements in each ~~separate~~ partition not containing image data; and

reading the information from said datastore to determine whether further image data may be stored.

13. (CANCELLED)

14. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim **12**, wherein said data storage means comprises a hard disk.

15. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim **12**, wherein said usage data comprises a plurality of data elements, each data element corresponding to one storage element on said data storage means.

16. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim **15**, wherein said usage data comprises a bitmap.

17. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim **16**, wherein said step of analysing said usage data comprises parsing said bitmap.

18. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim **12**, wherein said datastore comprises at least one cache within the kernel memory of said memory means.

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (CANCELLED)

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim **12**, wherein each said storage element has the storage capacity to store only one of said image frames of said predetermined frame definition/size.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim **12**, wherein each of said multiple datastores comprises a cache..

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer such that, when executing said instructions, a computer will perform the steps of:

storing data within data storage means comprising a RAID having a plurality of partiions, and each partition comprising a plurality of defined storage elements, ~~wherein each of said defined storage elements comprises a separate partition on the RAID,~~ with each ~~separate~~ partition configured to accept image data relating to image frames of a predetermined frame definition/size;

storing usage data ~~in multiple datastores~~, said usage data indicating which of said storage elements is currently being used in the predetermined frame definition/size;

in response to data being stored within said data storage means, updating said usage data ~~in each of the multiple datastores~~;

in response to said updating said usage data, flushing multiple data stores;

analysing said usage data to determine the number of said storage elements not containing image data;

storing information within each of said multiple datastores, said information identifying the predetermined frame definition/size for each ~~separate~~ partition and indicating said number of storage elements in each ~~separate~~ partition not containing image data; and

reading said information from said datastore to determine whether further image data may be stored.

24. (CANCELLED)

25. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim **23**, wherein said data storage means comprises a hard disk.

26. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim **23,** wherein said usage data comprises a plurality of data elements, each data element corresponding to one storage element on said data storage means.

27. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim **26,** wherein said usage data comprises a bitmap.

28. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim **27,** wherein said step of analysing said usage data comprises parsing said bitmap.

29. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim **23,** wherein said datastore comprises at least one cache within the kernel memory of the computer.

30. (CANCELLED)

31. (CANCELLED)

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim **23,** wherein each said storage element has the storage capacity to store only one of said image frames of said predetermined frame definition/size.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim **23 [[31]],** wherein each of datastores comprises cache.

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer system programmed to execute stored instructions such that in response to said stored instructions said system is configured to:

store data within data storage means comprising a RAID having a plurality of partitions, and each partition comprising a plurality of defined storage elements, ~~wherein each of said defined storage elements comprises a separate partition on the RAID,~~ with each ~~separate~~ partition configured to accept image data relating to image frames of a predetermined frame definition/size;

store usage data ~~in multiple datastores~~, said usage data indicating which of said storage elements contains image data in the predetermined frame definition/size;

in response to data being stored within said data storage means, update said usage data ~~in each of the multiple datastores~~;

in response to said update of said usage data, flushing multiple datastores;

analyse said usage data to determine the number of said storage elements not containing image data;

store information within each of said multiple datastores, said information identifying the predetermined frame definition/size for each ~~separate~~ partition and indicating said number of storage elements not containing image data;

read said information from said datastore to determine whether said further image data may be stored.

35. (CANCELLED)

36. (ORIGINAL) A computer system according to claim **34**, wherein said data storage means comprises a hard disk.

37. (ORIGINAL) A computer system according to claim **34**, wherein said usage data comprises a plurality of data elements, each data element corresponding to one storage element on said data storage means.

38. (ORIGINAL) A computer system according to claim **37**, wherein said usage data comprises a bitmap.

39. (ORIGINAL) A computer system according to claim **38**, wherein said step of analysing said usage data comprises parsing said bitmap.

40. (ORIGINAL) A computer system according to claim **34**, wherein said datastore comprises at least one cache within the kernel memory of said computer system.

41. (CANCELLED)

42. (CANCELLED)

43. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer system according to claim **34** **[[42]]**, wherein each said storage element has the storage capacity to store only one of said image frames of said predetermined frame definition/size.

44. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer system according to claim **34** **[[42]]**, wherein each datastore comprises a cache.